

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (twice amended) An apparatus for cleaning adhesive and debris from an edge of a trowel blade having a thickness, comprising:

- B1
- a. a body having an elongated slot extending through at least a portion of said body, said slot having a blade entry side, a blade exit side, and a lower edge extending therebetween; and,
  - b. a pair of opposing, [parallel] co-planar, cleaning blades rigidly mounted on said entry side, on either side of said slot, said blades being arranged in spaced relation a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the trowel blade.

B2

~~30~~<sup>29</sup> 14. (amended) An apparatus as in claim [13] ~~26~~<sup>29</sup> further including a well within said body, said well having an open portion positioned beneath said entry side of said slot.

~~32~~<sup>29</sup> 15. (amended) An apparatus as in claim [13] ~~26~~<sup>29</sup> further including a V-shaped notch having a bottom edge in co-planar alignment with said slot.

~~33~~<sup>29</sup> 16. (amended) An apparatus as in claim [13] ~~26~~<sup>29</sup> further including an elongated, horizontally oriented scraper blade, on an upper surface of said body.

B3

~~34~~<sup>29</sup> 18. (amended) An apparatus as in claim [13] ~~26~~<sup>29</sup> in which said body covers only a portion of an open end of the bucket defined by the upper rim.

B4

~~15~~<sup>14</sup> 21. (amended) An [apparatus] accessory as in claim ~~20~~<sup>14</sup> further including a well within said body, said well having an open portion positioned beneath said entry side of said slot.

<sup>14</sup>  
~~17~~ <sup>22</sup> (amended) An [apparatus] accessory as in claim ~~20~~ further including a V-shaped notch having a bottom edge in co-planar alignment with said slot.

<sup>18</sup>  
~~23~~ (amended) An [apparatus] accessory as in claim ~~20~~ further including an elongated, horizontally oriented scraper blade, on an upper surface of said body.

<sup>16</sup>  
~~24~~ (amended) An [apparatus] accessory as in claim <sup>15</sup> ~~21~~, further including a scraper blade on an upper surface of said body, and in which said well has an open portion positioned beneath said scraper blade.

<sup>134</sup>  
Concl  
[ Please add the following new claims: ]

<sup>125</sup>  
~~229~~ <sup>26</sup> (new) An apparatus for cleaning adhesive and debris from an edge of a trowel blade having a thickness, comprising:

- a. a body having an elongated slot extending through at least a portion of said body, said slot having a blade entry side, a blade exit side, and a lower edge extending therebetween, said body including a periphery having an arcuate portion extending partly around an upper rim of a bucket, and a lineal portion connecting ends of said arcuate portion, and further including a semi-circular groove beneath and coextensive with said arcuate portion, said groove being sized and configured to accommodate a corresponding section of the rim, allowing temporary attachment of said body to the bucket rim; and,
- b. a pair of opposing, parallel, cleaning blades mounted on said entry side of said slot, said blades being arranged in spaced relation a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the trowel blade.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~27~~ 27. (new) An apparatus as in claim ~~25~~<sup>19</sup> including a handle extending from said body.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~28~~ 28. (new) An apparatus as in claim ~~25~~<sup>19</sup>, including a cleaning trowel blade and means for detachably coupling said cleaning trowel blade to said body.

<sup>27</sup>  
~~29~~ 29. (new) An apparatus as in claim ~~28~~<sup>27</sup>, in which said means for detachably coupling includes a groove extending from a forward end to a rearward end of a bottom portion said body, and a bar extending along an upper face of said cleaning trowel blade, said groove being sized and configured to accommodate said bar.

<sup>23</sup>  
~~30~~ 30. (new) An apparatus as in claim ~~29~~<sup>23</sup> further including means for selectively securing said body, at any position along said bar.

<sup>24</sup>  
~~31~~ 31. (new) An apparatus as in claim ~~28~~<sup>24</sup> in which said cleaning trowel blade has a forward end and a knife mounted on said forward end.

<sup>25</sup>  
~~32~~ 32. (new) An apparatus as in claim ~~28~~<sup>25</sup> in which said cleaning trowel blade has forward lateral edges, and at least one arcuate cutout within one of said lateral edges.

<sup>26</sup>  
~~33~~ 33. (new) An apparatus as in claim ~~25~~<sup>26</sup> in which said body has a flat bottom portion, and in which said slot defines a plane which is oblique with respect to said flat bottom portion.

<sup>27</sup>  
~~34~~ 34. (new) An apparatus as in claim ~~25~~<sup>27</sup> in which said lower edge of said slot includes a plastic rod, said rod having an upper portion slightly above said lower edge, along which a lateral edge of the trowel slides.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~28~~35 (new) An apparatus as in claim 25 in which said entry side defines a plane which is oblique with respect to a plane of said lower edge of said slot.

<sup>35</sup>  
~~35~~36 (new) A handtool for cleaning adhesive and debris from an edge of a trowel blade, comprising:

- BS  
and
- a. a body having an elongated slot extending through at least a portion of said body, said slot having a blade edge entry side, a blade edge exit side, and a lower edge extending therebetween;
  - b. a cleaning blade mounted on said entry side of said slot, said blade including a slit having a transverse dimension slightly greater than the thickness of the trowel blade, and said slit being positioned in co-planar relation with respect to said slot; and,
  - c. a handle extending from said body.

#### REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the clarity and conciseness of the Office Action, including the indicated allowance of claim 25, and the provisional allowance of claims 13-18 and 20-24, providing certain informalities and required amendments to the claims were addressed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 as anticipated by Tremblay, U.S. Patent No. 4,891,859. Tremblay teaches an engine oil dip stick indicator wiper, in which a pair of semi-flexible flaps is pivotally mounted at their inner ends to opposing side walls. The flaps have no "free horizontal interface", or space, between them, when the flaps are in their normal, orthogonal position. Moreover, the flaps are vertically offset, so